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Sacramento Transcript, Number 3, 28 October 1850 — {-grate of Indian Hostilities in Trinity County.  
[ARTICLE]

**State of Indian Hostilities in Trinity  
County.**

We give below, an interesting paper drawn up in the shape of a petition to Gov. Burnett, from the citizens of the Trinity mines. The paper gives a history of the troubles during the past summer, between the whites and the Indians, and shows what action has been taken by the citizens of that portion of the State towards defending themselves.

Capt. Jas. McMakin, an officer of the Rangers in the late Mexican war, was deputed by a meeting of the citizens on Salmon Creek, to present the petition to the Governor, who, we understand, has promised to give him a commission as commander of the company which has been organized for the purposes therein stated.

To his Excellency, Peter H. Burnett, Governor &c.

The Petition of the undersigned, miners, packers and traders on and to the Trinity and Klamath rivers and their tributaries, humbly showeth :

That the savage tribes in their neighborhood, after a long series of vexations, thefts, daring robberies, and most cruel and wanton murders of their companions and countrymen, have at length acquired sufficient boldness and confidence in their strength, and the impunity with which they have committed their atrocities, to declare open and general hostility towards all white men. Fear of our numbers, and the superiority of our army, taught them by a few examples of summary vengeance, seemed for awhile to divide their councils and paralyze their action; but the success with which they have lately made attacks upon small parties taken by surprise, and our rapidly decreasing numbers, as the season approaches when miners repair to their homes, or seek for winter quarters, have at last united them. A general hostility of that portion of the tribe of Eurooks living at and about the forks of the Trinity and Klamath, and of all the tribes on the upper waters of the latter, and its valuable tributaries has been declared, and the trail to these mines, as well as the route by river navigation from the coast, is now occupied by them, and our passage disputed. Many of those who wished to winter here, find themselves in a state of blockade: and for want of provis

state of blockade; and for want of provisions, and from the impracticability of obtaining them before the rains and snows render communication with the depots on the coast impossible, the mining region, developed by the enterprise of your petitioners and others during the past summer, has to be abandoned at a moment when they are beginning to realize the rich rewards of their labors.

A large train, consisting of forty animals, departed from this point for Trinidad about ten days ago; a portion of which, accompanied by Mr. Chas. McDermit and seven other gentlemen went two days in advance of the main body. Four of their number, are reported by friendly Indians to have been treacherously murdered, and the survivors compelled to abandon their animals and fly to the mountains. Several circumstances, unnecessary to mention here, tend to confirm too surely, our apprehensions for their safety. When the rear division of the train arrived at a narrow and difficult pass at "Bluff Creek" near the forks, they found it occupied by a large body of Indians, who, by fierce tones and gestures, gave unmistakable evidence of hostility. The scanty trail over which it is considered dangerous for even a mule to pass, was barricaded, and the savages ready above, with rocks to roll upon them if they should attempt it. A portion of the enemy occupied also the opposite bank of the river to the rear, in position to co-operate with the front attack. They numbered only twelve men and seven rifles, with but three or four rounds of ammunition. The party were willing however, under all the disadvantages, to accept the challenge, believing it possible to dislodge the enemy; but the packers, fearing the loss of their animals, which they would not, in that case, be able to guard, prevailed on their companions to return to the mines and seek reinforcements.

In the early part of the season, only thefts, gross insults and occasional robberies, were committed upon small trains and unarmed parties, unable to defend themselves against such a vast superiority of force. It was still, however, thought wise to continue the conciliatory policy which had been at first adopted. For a while it promised success; but about two months ago, an outrage occurred which rendered further forbearance impolitic, not to say pusillanimous. A train from Trinidad, accompanied by seven or eight individuals, were robbed by the Indians at the forks, numbering about three hundred, who were preparing to attack the packers, when the timely arrival of another train with thirty

men saved them. They reached the mines that night, and found all there unanimous in the opinion that the pacific policy should be abandoned, and such a severe chastisement visited upon this tribe as should strike terror to them, and teach them that, tho' disposed to cultivate amicable relations with them, and patient under a sense of wrong, there was a point beyond which they could not go with impunity. The following morning before day-break, over thirty persons marched upon the village, burnt forty-nine huts, and drove the enemy to the mountains. Owing to the want of system in the plan of attack, and proper concert and cooperation among the assailants, but few Indians were killed—probably not more than twelve or fifteen. This lesson for a time restored quiet and safety to the neighborhood, and trains passed and repassed without molestation. It was not long, however, before two gentlemen, Joy and Burroughs, on their way down the Klamath to the forks were attacked, and the latter killed. Captain Joy, severely wounded, narrowly escaped with his life, leaving four of the assassins dead.

On the 13th inst. some of your petitioners, on the way from Trinidad to the mines, found at the forks the bodies of two persons, whom they recognized as Spinks and Cushing, near their camp fire in the same neighborhood, horribly mutilated.

A few days previous to this tragic occur

A few days previous to this tragic occurrence, three gentlemen fell in ambush on their way from the Klamath to the Big Bar of Trinity, about six miles from the forks aforesaid, receiving several arrow wounds each, which, it was thought, would prove mortal. Many persons have been killed or wounded in a similar manner on the roads to and from Humboldt, Union, Trinidad, and Klamath cities. Your Excellency, no doubt, has received authentic information of the vengeance visited by the citizens of Trinidad, on the Redwood Indians, for their attempt to rob and murder Messrs. Hoyt & Gains, whose conspicuous gallantry and miraculous escape are so well known to the public. After the destruction of the village, its occupants fled to the forks, and uniting with their red brethren of that place, have gradually infected them and the neighboring tribes with feelings of hostility, until they have become infatuated with the idea

that they are strong enough to expel us from the soil.

But if the occasion were appropriate, time would fail to give your Excellency a faithful narrative of all the outrages of this kind which have been perpetrated by the tribes which inhabit the northern boundaries of the State. They have become so bold and daring in their crimes, that it is impossible to live any longer peaceably among them. They flatter themselves that the uniform kindness and profuse liberality of the whites have been extorted from their fears; and, insensible to generous emotions, they regard all friendly advances with disdain; or if they seem to reciprocate them, it is only for the purpose of lulling us into security until the favorable moment arrives for more surely effecting their treacherous designs.

The only alternative before the dernier resort is a treaty; but your petitioners beg to suggest that it is impossible, at present, from want of sufficient knowledge of their languages, to make one; and that, if made, its guarantees would be treated with worse than "Punic faith," as falsehood and treachery are the most striking characteristics of these tribes. Some demonstration of our strength ought, then, to be made, sufficient to inspire dread and terror of our vengeance—the only restraint they are capable of feeling, and the only means, in the opinion of your petitioners, by which the miners will be enabled to live in security, and develop the immense mineral wealth of this region of country, equal in proportion to its extent with that of the more southern portion of the State. They will have to abandon the mines altogether, unless the route by which provisions are brought to them is protected by a competent force.

They would beg leave respectfully to suggest to your Excellency that regular troops, for various reasons, would not prove so efficient for this kind of service as a body of citizen soldiery, taken from among the miners, who have lived and travelled, during the past season, among the savages whom it is proposed to chastise. They are thoroughly acquainted with the topography of the country, its mountain defiles and difficult passes, as well as with the haunts and resorts of the enemy. They have become ac-

quainted, in some measure, also, with the manners, customs and languages of the different tribes, and know how to distinguish between those hostile and friendly. They are accustomed to the hardships of a mountain life, and would show more zeal and enterprise in pursuit of those from whose treachery and cruelty they have suffered.— They have wrongs to redress, and friends and companions slaughtered to avenge. Experience also teaches that regular troops, enrolled in the Atlantic cities, often find a motive in the liberal rewards of labor in the gold regions to desert from a service in which they are, comparatively, so poorly paid. In view of these reasons, and others obvious to the mind of your Excellency, the accompanying list of gentlemen have organized themselves as a company of mounted volunteers, to be called the “Klamath Rangers,” and tender their services to the State for this special emergency.

Should your Excellency concur in opinion with the views of your petitioners, and find it consistent with your duty to the State as well as within the limits of your constitutional prerogative, they will hold themselves in readiness to obey your call, asking only a moderate compensation for their services, such as will approach the average wages of labor in California. Their object is not mercenary, and they will cheerfully submit to your Excellency’s discretion in regard to their provision and appointment, or to any regulations that may have been provided for such cases by law. Many of them are willing to serve for twelve months, and all for six, or for any length of time that may be necessary to effect the objects of the organization. They will repair to Trinidad, there to await the orders of your Excellency.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.  
Klamath and Salmon River }  
Digging, Sept. 30, 1850. }

I hereby certify that the following is a correct copy of the original list of the “Klamath Rangers,” as duly organized by an election for officers, held at Salmon Digging, Oct. 1st, 1850.

JAS. KELLOGG.

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*Officers*—Captain James McMahon; 1st Lieut. Mathew Morris; 2d Lieut. J. K. Johnson; 3d Lieut. J B Nichols; 1st Serg't. W O Gullim; 2d Serg't. John M Maxwell; 3d Serg't. John Lawshe; 4th Serg't. John W Burke; 1st Corporal, C N Thornbury; 2d Corporal, Thomas Carter; 3d Corporal, T F Marks; 4th Corporal, A F Chcrny; Surgeon, E V Willard.

*Privates*—G W Linsley, C H Westfall, John T Dickson, Jas Richardson, J Sloan, Joseph Hill, A Swain, John Coons, Jas Platt, H H Huggins, Richard Humphreys, David W Long, John Nortman, Edwin F Farmer, Thomas Paine, Wm O'Neil, B Nordheimer, T F Mann, Jos H Stinchfield, Thos Kendall, Sen., Jas B Coskery, Jeremiah Martin, Wm T Stevens, Jas Buck, John F Hunter, Jas Hardie, Geo Peacock, Geo A Loundy, Henry H French, A Gillett, Geo W Brigham, Isaac Underwood, Jos L Nutting, A M Forbes, W H Gatliff.